4.34% during the year 1994 according to statistics published by ITC, Geneva.

(b) Tardy growth of value added leather products and intense competition from China, Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia have constrained our share in global trade. However, with increased resort to value addition in export products from late 1980s and improved production and product competitiveness, India's global share has registered an increase. During 1994-95 the export of value added leather products constituted more than 75% of the total exports as against only 39% in 1984-85.

(c) The Working Group of leather and leather goods industry for the 9th Five Year Plan has projected exports from leather sector at US$ 3.2 billion in the year 1999-2000 which would account for about 7% of the global trade in the items.

(d) Government has taken a number of steps to promote exports of leather and leather products. These include the following :-

- The National Leather Development Programme for integrated development of the industry
- identification of leather footwear as an extreme focus item capable of achieving higher export growth
- Launching of the leather technology mission for sustainable development
- Establishing computer aided design centres
- Setting up of Footwear Design and Development Institute
- Banning export of semi-finished leather, raw hides and skins
- Setting up of market research unit in the Council for Leather Exports for disseminating information on fashion trends and statistics.

Jute Purchasing Centres of Jute Corporation of India

*489. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for opening of new purchase centres of Jute Corporation of India in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which these centres are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir no request has been received in 1996-97.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Thefts/Robbery in Banks in Gujarat

*490. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of thefts and robbery which took place in each of the Nationalised Banks in the country, state-wise with particular reference to Gujarat during the period 1992-93 to 1995-96, year-wise;

(b) the amount of cash stolen or looted in each of the incidents;

(c) the number of persons arrested therein and whether some bank employees are also found involved in it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the legal action taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Information readily available relating to bank-wise and state-wise position of number of incidents of dacoities/robberies during 1992 to 1996 (Upto March) and amount involved therein as reported by nationalised banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is furnished in the attached statement.

RBI have indicated that all cases of robberies and dacoities were reported by the banks to the local police for necessary action. Sixty four persons including one employee of bank were arrested for involvement in these cases.